

# THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER;

UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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## SLAVERY IN BRITISH INDIA.

### No. I.

THE fact that slavery exists to an enormous extent, and in forms which every humane and christian mind must greatly deplore, in our Indian empire, admits of no doubt among those who have paid the slightest attention to the evidence furnished by the government on the subject.

As the question is one of growing interest and importance with the country, and as a great demand for information on it is every where expressed, we propose to lay before our readers the sum of the evidence now before the public in the documents printed by order of parliament, and in the admirable and useful publications of William Adam, Esq., and the Rev. James Peggs; both of whom, by their long residence, in India, and their habits of patient research, are well qualified to illustrate the evils and extent of slavery in that immense portion of our dominions.

THE EXTENT OF SLAVERY IN BRITISH INDIA.—No census of the slave-population of British India appears to have been ever taken. From the information, however, scattered through the parliamentary papers, which he has diligently and carefully examined, Mr. Peggs gives the following summary: viz.—

In Malabar .....	146,000
Canara, Coorg, Wynad, Cochin, and Travancore .....	254,000
Tinnevely .....	324,000
Trinchinopoly .....	10,600
Arcot .....	20,000
Assam .....	11,300
Surat .....	3000
Ceylon .....	27,397
Penang .....	3000
	300,297

East India Slavery, pp. 83, 84.

In this enumeration Mr. Peggs has included the slaves found in some of the states and Jagheers governed by native princes and chieftains, under the authority and protection of the East India Company.

Mr. Adam states the number of slaves within the Company's territories to be as follows: viz.—

In Silhet and Buckergunge ..	80,000
„ Behar .....	22,722
„ Tirhoot .....	11,061
„ Southern Mahratta Country ..	7500
„ Arcot .....	20,000
„ Canara .....	80,000
„ Malabar and Wynad .....	100,000
	321,283

Law and Custom of Slavery in British India, p. 128.

But from this enumeration he excludes, not only the slaves in the provinces governed by native chiefs, but those of the islands of Ceylon, Penang, and Malacca, amounting to at least 30,000 more.

Judge Baber, than whom no man was better qualified to give information on Indian slavery, in his evidence published in 1832, estimates the number of slaves in those districts in which he had been able to collect evidence at about 400,000.—Par. Pap. No. 128—1834, p. 42.

It is manifest, however, from a careful examination of the authorities quoted by these gentlemen, as well as of others to which they do not refer, that the highest computation given by either of them falls short of the actual number of slaves in British India,

over whose destiny the Company has at this time unlimited authority and control.

Mr. Adam, after alluding to the existence of slavery in Dacca, Jelalpoor, Buckergunge, Rungpoor, Dinajpoor, Parneah, Assam, Arracan, the Tenasserim provinces, the Mergui Archipelago, Boglipoor, Ramghur, Dehra Doon, Bellary, and Tanjore, of the number of slaves in which districts he could obtain no exact account, concludes his able statement with this remark, that it is “highly probable that a thorough and faithful census would show that the number (of slaves in the Company's territories) does not fall short of ONE MILLION.”

In further illustration of this point, and to show the extensive prevalence of slavery in one or other of its forms, in the different presidencies of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, the following authoritative statements may be relied on.

SLAVERY IN BENGAL.—Mr. Colebrook, in 1804, published *Remarks on the husbandry and internal commerce of Bengal*, in which we find the following admissions:—“Slavery, indeed, is not unknown in Bengal. Throughout some districts the labours of husbandry are executed chiefly by bond servants.” In an official paper written by him in 1826, he is more specific; he observes, “We find domestic slavery very general among both Hindus and Mussulmans \* \* \* \* \* Every opulent person, every one raised above the condition of the simplest mediocrity, is provided with household slaves, and from this class chiefly are taken the concubines of Mussulmans and Hindus.” \* \* \* \* \*

“In the lower provinces under this presidency,” he further observes, “the employment of slaves in the labours of husbandry is nearly, if not entirely unknown. In the upper provinces, beginning from western Behar and Benares, the petty landholders are aided in their husbandry by their slaves.” Distinguishing “the serfs,” who “pay rent and other dues for the lands which they till,” &c. he says, “but those employed in husbandry by the inferior class of landholders are *strictly slaves*; and their condition differs from that of household slaves, only as the one is occupied in out door work, and the other in the business of the interior of the house.” He adds, “it may be stated, that slaves are neither so few (in Bengal) as to be of no consideration, nor so numerous as to constitute a notable proportion of the mass of the population.”—Par. Pap., No. 138—1830, p. 311.

SLAVERY IN BOMBAY. In Mr. Chaplin's report, made in answer to queries addressed to the collectors of districts, he says, “Slavery in the Deccan is *very prevalent*, and we know that it has been recognized by the Hindu law, and by the custom of the country, from time immemorial.” Mr. Baber gives more definite information of the number of slaves in one of the divisions of the Bombay territory, viz, that “lying between the rivers Kistna and Toongbutra,” the slaves in which he estimates at 15,000; and in the southern Mahratta country, he observes, “All the Jagheers, Deshwars, Zemindars, principal Brahmins, and Sahookdars, retain slaves in their domestic establishments; in fact, in every Mahratta household of consequence, they are, both male and female, especially the latter, to be found, and indeed are considered to be indispensable.”—Par. Pap. No. 128—1834, p. 4.

SLAVERY IN MADRAS. Mr. A. D. Campbell says, “In the territories under the Madras government, slaves are of two distinct descriptions; the one includes the great slave population, termed ‘agrestic slaves,’ or such as are usually employed in the field, though occasionally also in other labour. \* \* \* \* \* The other description of slaves consists of those who may be termed domestic, from being employed only in the house itself. The class principally subjected to slavery in this presidency, are the *Pariar*, all of whom are slaves.” Par. Pap. No. 128—1834, p. 30. Hamilton says, “The *Pariar* are so numerous, that they have been computed at one-fifth of the whole population of India, south of the Krishna.” The population thus alluded to is computed at 15,000,000: the *Pariar*, therefore, would amount to 3,000,000, all of whom, the same accurate writer, on the authority of Dr. Francis Buchanan, states to be slaves.—Vol. 2, pp. 6, 179.

If our space admitted, the incidental notices and official admissions of the Company's servants on this point might be here introduced, for the purpose of shewing the strong probability there is, that the slave population of India must be reckoned by millions rather than by thousands, but we close with the statement of the rev. Mr. Malcom, who has recently returned from an extensive tour of observation in Hindostan and other parts of the East, whither he went as the representative of one of the American missionary societies. That gentleman says, “The number of slaves in the Carnatic, Mysore, and Malabar, is said to be greater than in most other parts of India, and embraces nearly the whole



of the Puncham Bundam caste. The whole number in British India has never been ascertained, but is supposed by the best informed persons I was able to consult to be, on an average, at least one in eight, that is about ten millions. Many consider them twice as numerous."—*Travels in Hindostan, &c.* Chambers's edition, p. 23.

But, whether the number be few or many, the fact of any portion of British subjects being held and used as the property of their fellow subjects and fellow men is enough to warrant, and should call forth, the most vigorous and united efforts of the people of this country to secure their immediate and entire liberty.

For further information on the extent of slavery in India, consult Par: pap: No. 128—1834, and No. 138—1839, and the authorities quoted by Adam, 'Law and custom of Slavery in India' p. p. 103 to 129 inclusive; and Peggs, 'East India Slavery' p. p. to 84 inclusive.

#### ON THE STATE OF CRAB ISLAND, IN THE WEST INDIES.

THE attention of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Committee having been engaged to the present condition of Crab Island, the following letter has been addressed to Lord Palmerston on the subject:—

27, New Broad Street, London, March 5th, 1841.

MY LORD—I am directed by the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society to draw your lordship's attention to a subject which has recently been pressed on their notice, and which, it appears to them, calls for the immediate interference of her Majesty's government, to prevent the very serious evils which may otherwise arise.

Bieque, or, as it is more commonly called, Crab Island, contiguous to Porto Rico and the Virgin islands, is described by those who have visited it as an extremely fertile and beautiful colony, capable of sustaining a population of 250,000 or 300,000 souls, and as a place of great consequence, in many respects, to this country. The sovereignty over this island has been frequently asserted by the British crown, especially in the negotiations with the Spanish government, which were conducted by your lordship a few years since, for the purpose of obtaining possession of Fernando Po, on the coast of Africa, by the offer of its cession in return. The exchange, however, was refused by the Spanish authorities, who afterwards laid claim to its sovereignty, though there can be no doubt whatever that it is a British possession.

Since that period the Committee are not aware that any steps have been taken by the government for the better securing of Crab Island to the crown, and for the exercise of its legitimate authority therein; whilst, in the mean time, Spanish subjects have taken possession of it, and have established, as the Committee are credibly informed, a system of slavery of the most atrocious kind, which is likely to extend rapidly, if not prevented by interposition of British authority. But, as the Committee are anxious that your lordship should be put in possession of the latest particulars they have received on this painful subject, and should know how injurious the present occupation of the island is to British interests, they transcribe for your lordship's information, an extract of a letter received from a highly respectable individual resident at Tortola, dated September 24th, 1840.

"Within the last few months, orders have been received here to pass the produce of Crab island as British plantation, and forty barrels of this sugar was shipped hence to London by the Duke of Gordon, on the 10th of August last. The only sugar made there is on the estate of L. Guillio. This person is deputed as the governor of Crab Island by the government of Porto Rico: he works on his estate about sixty slaves; some, I hear, are Africans, and others from the French islands. There are other slaves on this island, besides those owned by L. Guillio. That part of the island occupied by L. Guillio is very fertile; he raises sugar hitherto by means of slaves, and he has a British market for his produce. These advantages enable him to offer higher wages than the Tortola planters, under present circumstances, can possibly give. He has lately employed persons here to induce our labourers to emigrate, and he gives a sum for each labourer introduced. The consequences are that persons here who own or navigate small boats take off the people in great numbers from several out-bays of Tortola; and it is no unusual thing to see mothers running about looking for their truant children, who, on inquiry, they find have been taken to Crab Island the night before. It is inconsistent with freedom to restrict the labourer in the disposal of his services; but, in this instance, many of tender age are taken from those who have natural claims on them; others are of the young male population, incapable, I think, of judging correctly what is most to their advantage, and are the dupes of L. Guillio's agent. The wages offered by him is six dollars per month; for a month he exacts thirty days' labour; he works his slaves on Sunday, and maintains a right to the labour of his hired servants on that day. Those who go from Tortola do not work on Sunday, but they admit L. Guillio's principle, by giving him thirty days' labour for a month. Once at Crab Island, their labour is compulsory; they are not allowed to hire themselves to any other than L. Guillio, and his permission is necessary before they can depart. We might hope that, as the labourer found he did not benefit himself by going to Crab Island, he would seize the opportunity, by some independent British vessel, of returning, and the injury to the Tortola land-holder might be temporary; but to the emigrant found it is to be feared it will be lasting. The absence of any religious instruction, the disregard of the Sabbath-day, the great plurality of males, and the absence of wholesome and protecting laws, are calculated to injure the morals, and degrade the minds of those of our peasantry who go there, and who, if left alone, would be a comparatively virtuous, comfortable, and prosperous race.

"Crab Island presents a British possession, where slavery with all its hardships and degradations exists. It is under the dominion of a foreign adventurer, whose will is the law. I would respectfully submit whether such an anomalous state of things should continue. If Crab Island be British, the influence of British power and the exercise of her laws, administered by British officers, should extend there; if otherwise, they produce should not be admitted as British."

"The night before last an information was laid before me of a felony. The perpetrators, ten in number, immediately after committing the offence, started to Crab Island. Quere, Would a warrant from our chief magistrate here be acknowledged, or have any effect there? To demand the persons from L. Guillio would be an admission of his authority."

In addition to the important information contained in the foregoing extract, the Committee would also respectfully call your lordship's attention, to an extract from the recent work of Mr. Gurney, *A Winter in the West Indies*, from which your lordship will perceive that there is reason to fear Crab Island affords shelter and security, if not assistance, to vessels engaged in the Spanish slave-trade. It is as follows—"To our right lay Crab Island, which is said to be of considerable fertility and value. For a long time this island continued unsettled and unclaimed; but of late years it has fallen into the hands of Spain, and is said to be a kind of dependency on Porto Rico. The governor is a Frenchman; and slaves have already been introduced into the island. It is greatly to be feared that it not only affords a refuge for the slavers of Cuba and Porto Rico, but that it will itself be gradually peopled with slaves from Africa. It seems to be a questionable point whether Great Britain is not in possession of the first claim on this island. If so, it is surely most desirable, for mercy's sake, that she should assert her rights."

Whatever measures your lordship should think proper to employ for obtaining peaceable possession of the island, the Committee trust that they will be prompt and decisive; inasmuch as they cannot but fear that the parties at present occupying the colony may otherwise quit it, and compel the labourers there to leave it with them, and, by taking them to Porto Rico, deprive them and their descendants of their freedom, by selling or using them as slaves in that colony. And the Committee further trust your lordship will order measures to be taken for the punishment of those persons who may be found in the unlawful possession of the lands of the colony; and otherwise acting in opposition to British laws.

By recent intelligence of a private nature, brought by the last packet from Cape Haytien, the worst fears of the Committee are likely to be realized in reference to Crab Island. They would, therefore, again entreat your lordship's early attention to this important matter. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your lordship's most obedient humble servant.

J. H. TREDGOLD, Sec.

Right Hon. Lord Palmerston, &c. &c.

REPLY.

Foreign Office, March 16, 1841.

SIR,—I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to his lordship respecting Bieque, or Crab Island; and I am to acquaint you that his lordship has transmitted it to the Colonial Department, drawing the attention of the Colonial Secretary of State to the report you mention, that British negroes have been enticed from the island of Tortola to Crab Island.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant.

J. H. Tredgold, Esq.

(Signed)

LEVESON.

#### INTERPOSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICANS OF THE AMISTAD.

The following correspondence between the British minister to the United States and the Secretary of State, has been communicated by the President to Congress:—

MR. FOX TO MR. FORSYTH.

Washington, Jan. 20th, 1840.

SIR—I am instructed to represent to you that the attention of her Majesty's government has been seriously directed to the case of certain African negroes found on board the Spanish ship *Amistad*, the same persons whose case had been brought before the courts of law of the United States, and for whom a powerful and humane interest appears to be felt in this country as well as in England.

It is known to her Majesty's government that these negroes were imported into Cuba direct from the coast of Africa, in a Portuguese slave vessel called the *Tecora*, in the summer of 1839, and that, shortly after their arrival, they were purchased as slaves at the Havana, by two Spaniards of the names of José Ruiz and Pedro Montez. Ruiz and Montez then placed the negroes on board the schooner *Amistad*, intending to convey them to another port in Cuba. It appears that, during the voyage, the negroes, with a view of recovering their liberty, seized possession of the vessel, put the master to death, and ordered the remaining whites to navigate the vessel to the coast of Africa. The whites, however, directed their course towards North America, until they were fallen in with by the United States brig of war *Washington*, when the *Amistad* was finally brought into the port of New London, in Connecticut. The proceedings which have taken place subsequently to the arrival of the negroes in the United States are sufficiently well known to you.

Now Her Majesty's government have to observe, that, since the year 1820, it has become unlawful, according to the law of Spain, to import negroes from Africa as slaves into the Spanish dominions, and that, as the negroes here referred to had been newly imported from Africa into Cuba, and could not by law be imported as slaves, they must in the eye of the law be considered as free persons.

And Great Britain is also bound to remember, that the laws of Spain, which finally prohibited the slave-trade throughout the Spanish dominions from the date of the 30th of May, 1820, (the provisions of which law are contained in the King of Spain's royal cedula of the 19th of December, 1817,) was passed in compliance with a treaty obligation to that effect, by which the crown of Spain had bound itself to the crown of Great Britain, and for which a valuable compensation in return was given by Great Britain to Spain, as may be seen by reference to the second, third, and fourth articles of a public treaty concluded between Great Britain and Spain, on the 23rd of September, 1817.

Her Majesty's government, therefore, are moved by special and peculiar reasons to take an interest in the fate of these unfortunate Africans, who are known to have been illegally and feloniously reduced to slavery by subjects of Spain.



It is next to be observed that Great Britain and the United States have mutually engaged themselves to each other, by the tenth article of the Treaty of Ghent, to use their best endeavours for the entire abolition of the African slave-trade; and there can be no doubt of the firm intention of both parties religiously to fulfil the terms of their engagement.

Now the unfortunate Africans whose case is the subject of the present representation, have been thrown by accidental circumstances into the hands of the authorities of the United States; and it may probably depend upon the action of the United States government, whether those persons shall recover the freedom to which they are entitled, or whether they shall be reduced to slavery, in violation of known laws and contracts publicly passed, prohibiting the continuance of the African slave-trade by Spanish subjects.

It is under these circumstances, that Her Majesty's government anxiously hope that the President of the United States will find himself empowered to take such measures in behalf of the aforesaid Africans, as shall secure to them the possession of their liberty, to which, without doubt, they are by law entitled.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

The Hon. John Forsyth, &c. &c.

H. S. Fox.

MR. FORSYTH TO MR. FOX.

Department of State, Washington Feb. 1st, 1841.

SIR—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, in which you state that you are instructed to represent to me, that the attention of Her Majesty's government has been seriously directed to the case of the negroes of the Spanish ship *Amistad*, with the anxious hope that the President of the United States will feel himself empowered to take such measures in their behalf as will secure to them the possession of their liberty.

Viewing this communication as an evidence of the benevolence of Her Majesty's government, under which aspect alone it could be entertained by the government of the United States, I proceed, by the direction of the President, to make in reply a few observations suggested by the topics of your letter. The narrative presented therein of the circumstances which brought these negroes to our shores, is satisfactory evidence that Her Majesty's government is aware that their introduction did not proceed from the wishes or directions of the government of the United States. A formal demand having been made by the Spanish minister for the delivery of the vessel and property, including the negroes on board, the grounds upon which it is based have become the subject of investigation before the judicial tribunals of the country, which have not yet pronounced their final decision thereupon. You must be aware, sir, that the executive has neither the power nor the disposition to control the proceedings of the legal tribunals when acting within their appropriate jurisdiction. With regard to the other considerations presented by you in behalf of the negroes of the *Amistad*, I have to remark that it is not understood that the facts upon which they are founded are admitted by the minister of her Catholic Majesty; and this government would with great reluctance erect itself into a tribunal, to investigate such questions between two friendly sovereigns. If, however, these facts are established, they cannot be without their force and effect in the proper time and place. You have doubtless observed, from the correspondence published in a congressional document, that it is the intention of the Spanish minister to restore these negroes, should their delivery to his government be ordered, to the island of Cuba, whence the vessel in which they were found sailed, where they will be placed under the protection of the government of Spain. It is there that questions arising under the Spanish laws and the treaties of Spain and Great Britain may be appropriately discussed and decided; and where a full opportunity will be presented to the government of her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, to appeal to the treaty stipulations applicable to the subject of your letter.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Henry Stephen Fox, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

#### THE GLADSTONE SLAVE-TRADE.

(To the Editor of the *Anti-slavery Reporter*.)

SIR—In the admirable speech delivered by the Hon. H. F. Young, the government secretary in British Guiana, which appeared in your paper of the 24th ult., there is one short paragraph which cannot fail to excite astonishment, if it do not beget indignation. Among the estates enumerated by that gentleman as sold, to prove the undiminished value of property in the colony, is *Vreed-en-Hoop*, the late property of Mr. Gladstone. It is thus referred to:—"Vreed-en-Hoop, £35,000, with £2000 more for the services of the coolies for two years!" Now, when we recollect the circumstances under which these wretched creatures were brought to his estate, and their horrible treatment whilst I was in the colony, which I was providentially instrumental in bringing to light; their sale, for a period of two years, though in keeping with previous transactions, appears almost too monstrous to be believed. My object, however, in calling attention to the fact, is, to assert the illegality of the sale, which can neither be justified by the indentures under which they were held by Mr. Gladstone, nor by the laws of the colony; and to call upon her Majesty's government to assert the rights of these much injured people, by declaring them entitled to their freedom.

I am, sir, your's respectfully,

London, 22nd March, 1841.

JOHN SCOBLE.

THE UNITED STATES FLAG AND THE SLAVE-TRADE.—The *Allgemeine Zeitung*, in a well drawn article compiled from the English parliamentary papers, has diffused throughout Europe the facts in relation to the slave-trade which throw so much discredit on the United States. The article concludes in the following terms:—"The false position in which the United States have placed themselves, in respect to everything nearly or remotely connected with slavery, is such, that in matters of this kind neither justice nor decorum is to be expected from them: the President being well aware that the elections depend on slave-holders and slave-dealers. How long England will tolerate these wretched subterfuges it is difficult to say; but the question will probably become one of a more serious discussion than that which respects the Canadian boundary, for the people of England will never allow their government to relax in its efforts to obtain the suppression of the slave-trade."

#### GENERAL ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTATION APPOINTED TO PRESENT THE ADDRESS TO SOVEREIGNS FROM THE GENERAL ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION, TO THE SEVERAL AMBASSADORS AND MINISTERS FROM FOREIGN COURTS RESIDENT IN LONDON.

(Continued.)

11. February 11th.

His Excellency Baron de GERSDORF, Minister resident, representing his Majesty the king of Saxony.

The deputation were received by the minister in a polite and affable manner. A copy of the address having been read, and the original presented, to be forwarded to his Majesty the king of Saxony, the minister expressed himself much gratified in having the pleasure of meeting the deputation; and stated that, although his Sovereign had no direct interest in the subjects noticed in the address, yet he was persuaded his Majesty would fully concur in the just sentiments it expressed, and would readily unite in testifying his sense of the evils connected with the unrighteous system of slavery and the slave-trade. He assured the deputation that he would avail himself of the first opportunity of forwarding the address to Dresden, for presentation to the king.

12. February 11th.

His Excellency THOMAS MURPHY, Esq., Resident Minister for the republic of Mexico.

The deputation were received with much openness and courtesy by this minister, to whom the address was read. On its being handed to him, with a request that he would transmit it to the President of the republic of Mexico, he expressed his full concurrence in the sentiments it expressed, and his conviction that it would be favourably received by the President of the republic. He likewise reminded the deputation, that one of the first acts of the Mexican government had been to extinguish slavery in their territories, and that they had constantly employed a portion of the small naval force they possessed in attempts to aid the suppression of the slave-trade.

He expressed his regret at the course which the British government had recently pursued in the recognition of the independence of Texas, and added, that the Mexican government and people may be regarded as pledged coadjutors in any efforts made for the universal abolition of slavery and the slave-trade.

13. February 12th.

His Excellency Count NOMIS DE POLLEU, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Sardinia.

After a few introductory remarks, the address was read to his Excellency, and a copy presented for transmission to his Majesty the king of Sardinia. His Excellency assured the deputation that he fully concurred in the sentiments expressed in the address, in reference to the twin abominations of slavery and the slave-trade, and he was quite persuaded that it would be most favourably received by his sovereign, to whom he would immediately forward it. He informed the deputation, that the Sardinian government have been anxiously and sincerely desirous of using all the influence they possess for suppressing the slave-trade, although they have no direct interest in the matter; and that, regarding it as the duty of every nation professing christianity to unite in efforts to annihilate this inhuman traffic, his government have recently resolved to adopt further measures to assist in promoting its universal extinction. He observed, that the sentiments of his nation and government on this subject were so generally known, that he believed there had been no instance of the Sardinian flag having been used by individuals engaged in this disgraceful trade. He stated it as his opinion, that the only means of effectually destroying the slave-trade was the universal extinction of slavery; and the deputation understood him to express his regret, that our government did not watch with more vigilance the few ports which were now well known to be chiefly the places where the slave cargoes are landed, rather than employ so many of their cruisers with so little effect on the coast of Africa.

His Excellency evidently felt a deep interest in the subject, and the result of the interview impressed the deputation with the gratifying conviction that, in as far as the power or influence of the Sardinian government extended, their co-operation might be relied on.

14. February 12th.

His Excellency Chevalier M. de MONTEZUMA, resident minister from his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the Brazils.

The address having been read, and a copy having been presented to be transmitted to the emperor of the Brazils, his Excellency received it with much courtesy, and entered into a long and interesting conversation, in the course of which the deputation understood him to make the following remarks:—He stated the difficulties in the way of the abolition of slavery in the Brazils to be two-fold; first, the degraded condition of the slaves, whom he represented to be idle, immoral, ignorant, and ferocious; and, secondly, the peculiar institutions of the country, which constituted every free man a voter so that it would be dangerous to the political rights of the community, that so overwhelming and ignorant a portion of the population should be suddenly put in possession of the franchise.

On the first point, the deputation reminded his Excellency that his objection to emancipation was precisely that which had been urged by the British West India planters; but that the result had proved how utterly unworthy it was of consideration. They stated to him the gratifying fact that, out of the large number who had been emancipated in the British colonies, there was



not a solitary case on record of the spirit of revenge having roused the negroes to murder, or even to assault, their late masters. And, with respect to the fitness of the Brazilian slaves for freedom, they showed that the negroes of St. Lucia, Mauritius, and the Cape of Good Hope, were in as low a state of morals and education as those in Brazil. On the second point the deputation stated, that they did not make their appeal to the Brazilian government for political rights, but for the natural rights—the personal liberty of the negroes, and the protection of the law of the country, in common with all other free persons.

It is due to his Excellency to state, that, in reply to the observations which the deputation addressed to him, he disclaimed the idea of libelling the character of the negroes, and attributed their degradation to slavery, which he termed the plague spot of the country, and which he, in common with his government, was most anxious to get rid of. He not only spoke of the demoralising effects of slavery on those who were subjected to it, but also of its terrible re-action on the white population, especially the young; and, finally, admitted that the difficulty, in respect to the immediate assumption of political rights by the emancipated slaves, might be met by arrangements which would not render it necessary to alter the constitution of the country. It appeared from his Excellency's statement, that the *libertados*, or emancipated slaves, could not exercise political rights until after they had been naturalised; only their children, born free, being entitled to the rights of citizenship.

His Excellency then stated, that he was of opinion, with the celebrated Jefferson, that the two races—Europeans and Africans—could never enjoy equal political rights in the same country. He was told in reply, that, however great Mr. Jefferson might have been as a statesman, in maintaining such an opinion he had overlooked a great fact, namely, the natural identity of the human race, whatever might be their diversity of colour; that whites and blacks were governed by the same impulses—were grateful when justly and generously treated, and indignant when injured and abused; and that the enjoyment of equal privileges under an impartial government would remove prejudices and jealousies, and destroy the antipathy of the whites to the blacks, which had its origin in slavery.

His Excellency admitted the great extent of the slave-trade, but did not think the mortality connected with the system of slavery was so great as had been represented. He concurred, however, with the deputation in believing that the slave-trade could never be put down effectually, but by the abolition of slavery.

In the course of his communications his Excellency stated, in reply to questions proposed to him, that there had been several insurrections of slaves in the province of Bahia of late years, and that they had been put down by the sword. In reference to the negroes in this province he stated generally, that they were a powerful and intellectual body of men; chiefly, he was understood to say, of the Ossave and Minas nations. Very many of the former were able to read and write Arabic, and to solve problems in mathematics; and those of them who were free were among the best merchants in Brazil. He stated them to be extremely clever in making bargains; and, when once brought under engagements, scrupulously punctual and exact in fulfilling them.

The deputation did not fail here to point out the fact, that there was more danger in continuing the system of slavery than in abolishing it, and that man was fit for no other state than that of freedom.

On one other point his Excellency expressed himself decidedly, namely, that there was no legal hinderance to emancipation; that the laws were favourable to freedom; and that negroes having the means of purchasing their liberty, could compel their masters to discharge them upon a fair valuation.

In conclusion, his Excellency said he would be happy to receive the Deputation at any time, and communicate any information in his power, and that he would transmit the address to his sovereign.

15. February 17th.

His Excellency CHEBIK EFFENDI, ambassador from his Imperial Majesty the Sultan Abdul Medjid, Emperor of the Ottomans, &c.

A letter having been addressed to his Excellency, soliciting an interview for the Deputation to present the Address from the General Anti-slavery Convention, the following answer has been received.

1, Bryanstone Square, 17th February, 1841.

SIR,—I am directed by the Chebik Effendi, the Ottoman ambassador, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, wherein, by the direction of the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, you express a wish of confiding to his care an Address to his Majesty the Sultan, passed at the late Convention held by that society in London.

"The Ambassador regrets that, under the existing customs and usages of Turkey, he could not take upon himself the responsibility of conveying to his sovereign any document that is not of a strictly official nature, and emanating from the government where he is accredited.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

ED. ZOHRAS.

J. H. Tredgold, Esq., &c.

(To be continued.)

EGYPTIAN SLAVE HUNTS. The hattî-sherriff which appoints Mehemet Ali basha of Sennaar, prohibits the practices of hunting for slaves, and making eunuchs.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications for the Editor of the *Anti-slavery Reporter* should be addressed to the Anti-slavery Office, 27, New Broad Street, London.

### Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, MARCH 24TH.

WE are happy to see that the movement of the friends of humanity in reference to slavery in British India is attracting attention in the proper quarter. Two articles have recently appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, headed with the following question:—"Does slavery exist in India?" Marvellous to say, it is the writer's aim to show that it does not exist there, otherwise than as a name "to designate a peculiarly affectionate relation between master and servant!" For boldness we think these communications are almost unparalleled; but we are very glad of their appearance, both because they indicate a degree of feeling in quarters where we rejoice to see it, and because they will awaken the attention of the public more powerfully to the whole subject. A paper in reply has subsequently been inserted in the *Chronicle*, and appears in our columns to-day, and others may probably follow. The documents already in existence furnish copious matter for them; but we are looking with eagerness for those further papers which have been granted on the motion of Dr. Lushington, and by which the question—Does slavery exist in India? will no doubt be answered convincingly to all parties. In the mean time, the sensitiveness which has been manifested may well encourage the friends of humanity in their endeavours.

WE hastily noticed in our last, the animated, and we are happy to say decisive debate, which arose on the subject of slavery in the French chamber of deputies, on the 7th instant. To-day we have the pleasure of laying before our readers two letters from M. Isambert, by which this important matter will be more fully detailed. It will be observed that the first of the two letters was written in anticipation of its occurrence. The sentiments which fell from the lips of M. Goubert so offensively on the ears of the colonists of Martinique, were the simplest dictates of humanity towards the slaves. The letters follow.

Paris, February 26th, 1841.

DEAR SIR,—I avail myself of Mr. Wright's return to England, to send you a copy of a very interesting pamphlet, published in Paris by M. Cabbé Goubert, ex-cure of Fort Royal, Martinique, who has been driven from that colony in consequence of a most christian and touching discourse delivered in his capacity and profession as a clergyman.

An abominable case which has just been decided at Guadeloupe, the imprisonment and torture during twenty-two months of a slave in a private dungeon, has furnished an occasion of exciting a strong opinion against slavery, which authorises such barbarous punishments.

A parliamentary notice has been given on this subject. We reckon on complete success; for M. Guizot, principal secretary of state, is favourable to us; and otherwise facts speak so loudly, above all while they continue unpunished, that the chamber of deputies, little philanthropic as it may be, cannot withhold its sympathy from us.

We shall try at least to obtain the suppression of private dungeons, and to give a new impulse to the colonial commission presided over by the Duke de Boglie, which has done nothing for eight months but ask questions.

It is said that affairs proceed better in Jamaica. I beg you to send us the returns to January, 1841, of the exports from the emancipated colonies. Whatever may be the result, we shall not be discouraged.

Accept the assurance of my high consideration.

ISAMBERT,

Secretary of the French Society for the abolition of slavery.  
J. H. Tredgold, Esq. &c.

Paris, March 8th, 1841.

SIR,—I have the pleasure of informing you, in the name of all my colleagues, that we had yesterday in the chamber of deputies a spirited, but decisive debate on the question of slavery, on occasion of a scandalous acquittal which has taken place in Guadeloupe, in reference to an imprisonment of twenty-two months in a private dungeon.

The ministry has positively promised to second with all its power the commission named last year, and presided over by the Duke de Boglie, for the solution of this great and difficult question.

It appears that the head of the last cabinet (M. Thiers) had, without the concurrence of his colleagues, and contrary to the wish of the Count de Remusat, [our worthy and faithful colleague in this work, indirectly endeavoured to throw obstacles in the way of this commission. M. Guizot on the contrary, explained himself clearly and frankly. He showed himself such as you saw him in London, in June last.

We hope that a project of law, which shall determine the period of slavery, will be perfected in the next session. Accept, &c,

ISAMBERT, Secretary, &c.

Our ministry has just published the accounts returned of the state of your emancipated colonies. It is impartially done. With regard to Antigua, the returns are satisfactory in every respect. The documents for the most part stop at 1840. If any thing should be published during the present session of parliament, make us acquainted with it.

The entire press agrees that the last blow, morally, was struck at slavery yesterday.

J. H. Tredgold, Esq. &c.

An interesting sample of the sentiments of the French press on this subject, will be found elsewhere in our columns, translated from *L'Esperance*, a Parisian journal. We are happy to add, on good authority, that a project of law determining the main points of this great question is likely to be introduced to the French legislature during the present session.



In the West India papers last arrived we find an important document in the shape of an extract of a letter from the late governor of Sierra Leone to one of his friends at Demerara. It is inserted in the *Guiana Times*, with introductory remarks as follows:—

A gentleman, to whose kind offices we have been indebted oftener than once, has handed us an extract from a letter addressed to one of his friends by Governor Doherty, of Sierra Leone. It will be recollected that this worthy and intelligent officer's first communication to Lord John Russell was written at some date anterior to the middle of the year: the following extract, therefore, contains the substance of his Excellency's sounder information and later experience, and it is at this moment, exceedingly well timed, inasmuch as it has a tendency to correct any extravagant notions which might be formed, as to the probable value of Sierra Leone as a source of emigration.

"Sierra Leone, Sept. 18th, 1840.

"I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 10th July, on the practicability of procuring field labourers for the West Indies from this colony. Within the last eight or ten months, I have heard from Mr. Burnley junior, and repeatedly from Mr. Robert Neilson; and, in consequence, both in Freetown itself, and during visits to the villages of the colony, which are formed by the location of the liberated Africans whom you mention, endeavoured to ascertain the sentiments of these people with respect to the proposed emigration. I cannot find, however, that any of them are disposed to leave Sierra Leone for employment as daily labourers, or that they would be disposed to move at all, except on an express understanding of their being sent back, should they desire it, within two or three years. They are, for the most part, an active and industrious population, fond of employing themselves in barter and trade, in which they rise from small beginnings, some of them to great comfort and considerable property; and, upon the whole, are in a better condition here than I was prepared to find them, or than you and others are probably aware of. I am of opinion, therefore, that little could be done in procuring volunteers among them; but there is a race of strangers in the colony, from the eastward, who are in every respect better adapted for bodily labour, who indeed are exclusively employed here, and on board ship, in severe labour, and who could, I think, be induced to go over to the West Indies—though neither would they do so, except upon an understanding or agreement to be returned within three, four, or five years, as might be. These are the Kroomen, of whom you may have heard, and they might be procured from this, I should think, or from their own country; but they never emigrate with their families, and their object is gain, and to return with it to their native country. You might not get many at first; but, if they were well treated, and sent back to the Kroo country, numbers would then be likely to offer their services.

"Upon the whole, it appears to me that the best plan that yourself and others interested in the matter could do, would be, in the first instance, not to rely on any general reports from this, but to send out some individual to ascertain the facts on the spot, and to engage volunteers among the Kroomen; he would have the best prospects of success: but he might also make inquiries among, and offers to, certain classes of the liberated Africans. With respect to the mercantile houses you request me to name, I will mention those of Mr. William Cole, and Mr. Robert Hornell, with either of whom I think you might correspond with advantage on finally deciding on the measure.

"R. DOHERTY."

Two points are observable in this communication of Governor Doherty. First, that he has ascertained that the liberated Africans of Sierra Leone are not disposed to emigrate as labourers, for any remuneration whatever. Secondly, that he suggests a plan for the emigration of the Kroomen, natives of Africa, through Sierra Leone. This is a very remarkable proposition to come from the governor of a British colony. Is it possible it can have obtained the sanction, or can have been submitted to the consideration of the home government?

We are sorry to find, that several parts of the West Indies are severely suffering by drought. This will, of course, diminish the production of sugar, and impede so far the relief which the consumers of that article so earnestly look for. We are sure, however, that Englishmen would not desire that relief at the cost to human life and happiness which would be involved in the admission of slave grown sugar to the British market. No money price can make sugar so dear, as it must be reckoned when it is purchased by the uncompensated labour and immeasurable suffering of our fellow-creatures.

THE latest accounts from the United States manifest the intense interest felt at the date of them in the impending fate of the Africans of the *Amistad*. From a private letter dated New York, February 27th, we are favoured with the following:—

The *Amistad* case is now being argued in the supreme court at Washington. Mr. Baldwin, of Newhaven, one of the original counsel, and always, I think, the one on whom the main reliance was placed for the full preparation of the case, made his argument in the beginning of the week, and a most masterly one it is said to have been. John Quincy Adams has already spoken two days, about four hours each, and his speech of course will be an able one. We have managed to make the whole nation look the *Amistad* captives in the face. The case is, in my view, so plainly in favour of their being set at full liberty here, that I cannot as yet fear that any other result will take place, although in this most of our friends differ from me.

We find, indeed, that, generally, fear much preponderates over hope. It is, we suppose, a favourable circumstance, that, by delays which have arisen in the hearing of the case, the decision of it has been thrown beyond the 4th of March, that is to say, into the hands of a new government. All British sense of justice is outraged by the pre-judgment of the case in long newspaper articles, abounding with pro-slavery virulence and denunciation; the worst of these, too, being written, as is said, by a person of no less official importance than Mr. Forsyth, the secretary of state

to the Van Buren government. It will be seen with pleasure, that the British ministry has interposed its good offices with that of the United States on this deeply interesting occasion. We trust Lord Palmerston will yet ask himself the question, whether there is nothing more that he can do.

Since writing the above, we have received the *New York Journal of Commerce*, containing Mr. Leavitt's notes of the proceedings before the supreme court; but we have not room for extracts.

We take from a letter of the correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, a passage again affirming the carrying on of the slave-trade under the flag of Greece. May we be permitted to recommend to all persons who have any real knowledge on this subject to put it into the form of specific facts? Nothing else can become matter of investigation; and we have the recent promise of the Greek minister in this country that any specific allegation shall be inquired into. The extract we give below says that a case occurred "when Lord Powerscourt was at Syra:" but when was Lord Powerscourt at Syra? What was the name of the vessel? The *Malta Times* will of course give circulation to the declaration of Prince Mavrocordato, that, on the deck of a Greek vessel, as on the soil of Greece, no person is a slave, but is *ipso facto* free. The following is the extract:—

I had almost forgotten to call your attention again to the open way in which the slave-trade is carried on in Greek vessels, and after England has spent so many millions to abolish it. Lord Powerscourt openly said in society here, that, when he was at Syra the other day, there was a Greek vessel in that port with one hundred black slaves on board, most of them women, and naked to the waist! His lordship was performing quarantine in his yacht, and the slaver was moored near his vessel. Cannot our navy interfere to put an end to this infamous traffic, carried on openly under the flag of independent Greece?

We direct attention to a paper in a preceding column, under the head of *Crab Island*. The subject to which it relates is of great importance, and is well deserving of attention in the high quarters to which it has been introduced. We should have been gratified if the answer of Lord Palmerston had indicated a more thorough appreciation of its merits.

We need scarcely direct attention to the extracts we have made from the report on the Indian Coolie trade. It will be found amply to justify all the steps which have been taken in opposition to it; and we should suppose it will lay the matter finally at rest:

#### EXPORTATION OF HILL COOLIES.

It will be recollected that, in the parliamentary proceedings of last year, frequent reference was made to an official inquiry instituted by the government of India respecting the exportation of Coolies, and a consequent report, not then received in this country, but indispensable to any satisfactory proceeding. This document, so highly important and so loudly called for, has at length arrived, and has been printed by order of the House of Commons.

It appears that, on the 1st of August, 1838, the secretary to government wrote to T. Dickens, Esq., the Rev. H. J. Charles, W. Dowson, Esq., Major Archer, Russomoy Dutt, Esq., and J. D. Grant, Esq., C. S., informing them that the deputy governor had selected them as a committee, to investigate the alleged abuses of the system of Coolie exportation. The committee commenced their operations on the 22nd of August, between which period and the 14th of January, 1839, they held not less than fifty sittings, and examined between thirty and forty witnesses, besides carrying on a considerable correspondence. The report is signed by only three of the gentlemen, who constituted the committee; Major Archer having left Calcutta pending the inquiry, and Messrs. Grant and Dowson differing in opinion on some points. We extract the following passages:—

9. We conceive it to be distinctly proved beyond dispute, that the Coolies and other natives exported to Mauritius and elsewhere were (generally speaking) induced to come to Calcutta by misrepresentation and deceit, practised upon them by native crimps styled duffadars and arkotties, employed by European and Anglo-Indian undertakers and shippers, who were mostly cognizant of these frauds, and who received a very considerable sum per head for each Coolie exported.

10. That, if the natives in the interior, Hill Coolies or others, had been distinctly made aware that they were to go beyond seas to a great distance, and to remain absent for five years, it is probable that not one, or at least that very few, would have been induced to take such an engagement.

11. That the Coolies seem generally to have been induced, by the duffadars and others employed in that business, to come to Calcutta, by being persuaded that they should find employment as peons under the Company, work on the public roads, or as gardeners, porters, &c.

12. That, in the case of the Hill Coolies especially, and in many other instances, the parties were really incapable of understanding the nature of the contracts they were said to have entered into, even when an opportunity of explanation had been afforded apparently sufficient for the purpose.

13. That, in despite of the regulations of 1837, and the interference of the police, an impression was successfully created and maintained up to the date of the suspension of the trade among the Coolies, that they would be liable to penal consequences if they expressed dissatisfaction at being sent on board ship; and this seems to have induced them, both previous to their departure and their return, to suppress the mention of their grievances wherever they conceived themselves interrogated by government officers.

14. That kidnapping prevailed to a very considerable extent; and that the Coolies, while kept in Calcutta itself and its neighbourhood, were actually in a state of close imprisonment.



15. That, notwithstanding the existence of these practices of kidnapping and illegal imprisonment, to a very great extent within the local limits of Calcutta itself, the police authorities of the town do not seem to have been well-informed of the facts; and it is certain that, whatever measures were adopted, such measures were completely ineffectual as a check upon these abuses.

16. That the advance, as it was called, of six months' wages, seems to have been real as far as the planter wishing to import Coolies was concerned, and nominal as far as the Coolie was concerned. The planter paid the whole money, yet the Coolie received but little or nothing, until Serjeant McCann's interference. His mode of adjusting the accounts between the Coolie and the agent, or person that shipped the Coolies, was, in all cases, to allow the latter to retain twenty rupees of the money of each Coolie, out of which the trifling articles of clothing and utensils furnished to him were paid; the charges of Mr. Hughes, and other intermediate and subordinate crimps, such as the duffadars and arkotties; and lastly, the charge of Serjeant McCann himself. This system of nominal allowances to the Coolie was a source of fraudulent and dishonest gain to all the subordinate agents engaged in the export; and it is certain that, if advances were forbidden, the prop and mainstay of the Coolie trade, as heretofore carried on, would be at once removed. It will be observed, that, of the different parties engaged in the procuring and shipment of Coolies, not one tendered the production of his accounts.

17. That the legislative enactments and regulations of police made and passed for the prevention of abuses and due regulation of the trade in Calcutta, were of very little effect when enforced at all; for, though it appears that some amelioration was effected after the Act of 1837, yet the foregoing well-established facts abundantly bear out the general conclusion. We may further remark, that it has been proved by the evidence of Captain Rapson, that, out of 336 Coolies which he carried to Mauritius in the *Sophia* in October, 1836, only 140 were embarked while the ship he commanded was at her moorings, and the rest (that is to say, very nearly two-thirds) during her progress down the river, and without any pass or permit from the police at all. The only inference to be drawn is, that the laws and regulations of Calcutta restrictive of the illegal export of Coolies, can be evaded to any extent the shipper and captain may choose, and this with the utmost ease and impunity.

18. It may be further inferred, that the laws and police regulations of Mauritius were not of much greater practical utility in restraining the illegal importation of Coolies, because, if strictly observed, the greater number of the Coolies carried by Captain Rapson in the *Sophia* must have been sent back, as shipped against the restrictive laws and regulations of Calcutta, of which the Mauritius police authorities were, as already observed, previously made aware; but it appears from Captain Rapson's deposition, that they were all received and divided equally among the planters.

19. It further appears, from the evidence of the native witnesses taken as a whole, and after all due allowance made for a habit of exaggeration prevalent among Bengalees and Hindoostanees, that the local police of the interior of Mauritius was not very accessible to complaints; that the regulations of the plantations are such as closely to resemble imprisonment within their boundaries, and that the magistrates of the interior are not very cordially disposed to enforce those provisions of the contract inserted for the advantage of the Coolie.

20. It further appears (although the despatches of the Mauritius to the Bengal Government would seem to make it doubtful whether these persons were imported in French vessels) to be distinctly proved by Mr. Dowson's evidence, that, since this export trade in Coolies from India to Mauritius began, more Coolies were exported from Pondicherry than from Calcutta and other Indo-British ports, or at least as many, and great numbers from Madras to a French colony in which slavery prevails. It follows that all precautionary and restrictive measures adopted merely in British ports are but of comparatively small utility, and will, if they should prove effective in any great degree, end in driving the trade to foreign ports, if Mauritius or the West Indies are permitted to receive Coolies from them, as well as from our own.

21. The hardships and miseries endured by the Coolies in the passage to Mauritius are proved to have been very great, under the most favourable circumstances, and with the most humane commanders, acquainted with the language and manners of the natives; the mortality from drowning and other causes was most serious. We are fully persuaded, that, if the emigration to Demerara and the West Indies were permitted, the mortality in the voyages, taken together, would not fall much short of 10 per cent. on the numbers exported.

22. It appears in evidence that no restraint has at any time existed on the emigration of women, yet very few have gone. The Mauritius government has really been desirous that they should be sent; but we think it may be fairly inferred that the planters have not. The result of the emigration that has already taken place has been most disastrous to the families of those who have emigrated; and it is shown by the memorandum furnished to the Landholders' Society, by Mr. Taylor, that the districts of Bancoorah and Maunbhoon have been burdened with a vagrant and mendicant population of paupers, composed of the deserted families of emigrant Coolies.

23. On the subject of the condition of the Coolies in Mauritius, there is contradictory evidence. Mr. Onslow, of the Madras Civil Service, the Rev. Mr. Garstin, Dr. Wise, Captains Mackenzie and Rayne, (all unexceptionable witnesses in point of good faith, character and veracity) bear testimony to their healthy appearance and their apparent contentment, and seem to consider them as improved in condition. The natives, however, who have returned, with the exception of one Ramdeen, gave evidence the other way. It must be admitted, on such questions, these persons, however ignorant, are really the best judges. The European gentlemen would, from their own position in society, and their natural dispositions, associate probably only with planters of the superior classes and of humane tempers, whose treatment of their Coolie labourers would, it may be reasonably presumed, be liberal and considerate. And, when an opinion is pronounced that the condition of a Coolie is bettered at Mauritius, it should be first ascertained what that condition was in India, and what is the condition of his wife and children, or those of his family dependent upon him, when left behind. Any benefit derived from the superiority of climate at Mauritius or elsewhere, may, we think, very reasonably be put out of question, as a mere European notion. It is clear, however, that, if the contracts be fulfilled with perfect good faith, the individual Coolie temporarily betters

his condition by emigrating to Mauritius, because he gets higher money wages, and food and clothing found him beside, though he has to work harder than in India. But it is clear also from the evidence, that the contracts, generally speaking, are not fulfilled by the planters. The conclusion of our minds from the whole evidence is, that these contracts have been strictly and literally fulfilled in no instance. Under good masters, there may be substantial fulfilment in good faith, as far as the circumstances of the island, in respect of imports of the kind of food stipulated for, permit, an equivalent being provided when the thing stipulated for cannot be afforded. In the majority of cases, however, there is nothing like that, kind of performance shown; but, on the contrary, rice, and salt, and clothing, seem to be all that the Coolies do actually receive from bad masters; and no money wages at all seem to be paid in the majority of instances.

The committee subsequently advert to the question of resuming the "trade" in Coolies, on which they express themselves in the following decided terms:—

27. We are thoroughly and intimately persuaded, from our knowledge of this country, of the working of judicial and police establishments in the interior and in Calcutta itself, of the character of the natives, and of those classes of persons who would engage actively in promoting the export of Coolies here, and whom government would be compelled to employ in the practical supervision of the details of all regulations to prevent abuse, whether in the interior or in Calcutta, that scarcely any human precaution would avail to prevent a repetition of abuses. However, abuses quite as gross as those which have already prevailed, in despite of the acts and regulations already passed, might perhaps be rendered rare. But no system, we are firmly convinced, would ever suffice completely to counteract the tricks and falsehoods that would be resorted to in India by the duffadars, arkotties, and other persons engaged in similar avocations.

28. We are also convinced that no regulations, nor even any such as we have subsequently pointed out as absolutely necessary, would after all, in practice, suffice to secure the emigration or export of a due proportion of women, or an emigration by families. The interests of all classes of private persons concerned as exporters or importers are against it, and they will always operate more successfully than any laws or regulations that can be devised. Besides, it appears to be contrary to the general Asiatic character, and opposed to the feelings and prejudices of even the lowest classes, to emigrate with their women or families. There are thousands of Chinese emigrants at Singapore, and hundreds of thousands, we might even estimate by millions, in Siam, Java, Borneo, Manilla, and the islands of the Eastern Archipelago; of women there are few or none. Certainly, the laws of China do, as it is said, prohibit the emigration of women; but as they equally prohibit the emigration of men, the true reason of the rarity of female emigrants must be sought for elsewhere; and it will be found in the jealousy and prejudices of Asiatics with regard to the female sex, in the want of due accommodation for women in maritime emigration, and in the extreme poverty of the emigrants, which leads them to abandon all family ties as an incumbrance, which, unable to bear at home, they are doubly unwilling to sustain abroad.

29. We doubt, moreover, whether any regulations in the island of Mauritius will suffice to secure the strict and just performance of any contracts. Of the state of things in the West Indies we are uninformed by evidence. Further, we think, that no contracts really as just and beneficial to the Coolie as they ought to be would be entered into, if the regulations were so enforced as that a near approach were made towards a strict enforcement of performance.

30. We are convinced, in fine, that no laws or regulations likely to be passed, short of making the whole land and sea transport of Coolies government services, superintended by government officers and medical men, will suffice to prevent great misery and distress, even on this side of the Cape; and that, if West Indian voyages be permitted, the waste of human life and misery that will fall on the Coolies exported under the name of free labourers, will approach to those inflicted on the negro in the middle passage by the slave-trade. The numbers of Coolies exported to Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo, to Trinidad, Jamaica, and the West India islands generally, would probably be very great; the cost of the voyage there and back would be very heavy, particularly if short terms of contract were enforced, and the impossibility of preventing exportation (whether professedly regulated or merely illicit) from foreign European ports and native territories in India complete. We think the latter consideration quite decisive against the expediency of re-opening the trade, when we reflect that, in addition to Danish, there are Portuguese and French ports and territories, from which a very large exportation could easily be organized. A prohibition to receive Coolies into British colonies in foreign vessels, might no doubt be enforced, but the exportation to foreign colonies could not be checked, except by long negotiations, if it were once begun, and our government would have no reason to urge for remonstrance or interference that could not be answered by a reference to its own example, and on the general and abstract principles, that it is always an advantage to all countries where labour is dear, to import it from those where labour is cheap; and that it is the right of all men to trade in free labour, and especially of him whose only property is his capacity to labour, to sell that commodity to the best profit.

31. It seems to us that the permission to renew this traffic would weaken the moral influence of the British government throughout the world, and deaden or utterly destroy the effect of all future remonstrances and negotiations respecting the slave-trade; and this effect would ensue, however stringent, minute, or restrictive, might be the regulations framed to check abuses. Regulations would be met by other regulations, specious and unobjectionable in form; the difference would be in the execution and in the good faith of the framers.

32. Moreover, we think, as far as India is concerned, the supreme government and the government of each presidency, would be harassed by the occurrence of political disputes with the governments of foreign possessions, in addition to the labours of the watchful superintendence which would be required to be exercised, even by the supreme executive authority itself from time to time, over all the departments and executive officers employed in carrying into effect the laws and regulations intended to prevent abuse.

The report concludes with a statement of regulations which the committee would deem necessary, if ever the Coolie trade should



be renewed. Into these we need not enter at present; suffice it to say, that they differ vastly from the provisions of the Colonial Passengers' Act. The committee candidly state that they framed their suggestions, "not without a hope" that, if they should be adopted, "the trade would be abandoned as unprofitable by all parties now engaged in it."

We learn from the report, that, of the six gentlemen who composed the committee, two were "favourable to the trade, and one actually engaged in it." These, no doubt, are the two dissidents. One of them, Mr. Dowson, has expressed his views in a minute appended to the report. He describes it as "a case got up against the Mauritius interests, in a spirit of the most reckless exaggeration!" This is the Coolie trader, beyond question; and staunch to the last.

### Colonial & Foreign Intelligence.

#### UNITED STATES.

**MOVEMENT IN KENTUCKY.** [From the *Free American*.] I have gathered from various sources an account of a very deeply interesting discussion on the subject, which has recently taken place in this noblest of the slave states. It is evident that slavery cannot long endure such assaults upon it. Indeed, as the slave-holders of Kentucky are not more than one in eight of the legal voters, it evidently requires nothing but an impulse and union of action to ensure its immediate overthrow. The colonization scheme is a great hindrance in the way. For, although it has no influence for good, and secures very little pecuniary support, its speculations on the "impossibility of the two races living harmoniously together" have befogged the minds of not a few of her statesmen, so that they do not see the almost self-evident truth, that, as a free labour community, Kentucky cannot bear the loss of a single labourer. She will need 200,000 more within two years after slavery is overthrown. But to return to the debate.

The occasion of it was this. Kentucky, like other of slave-states, had sent large numbers of her useless slaves into the extreme south for sale, from 1835 to 1838, for which long credits were given, as in other cases. Large quantities of produce, bagging, hemp, and cattle, &c., had likewise been sold in the same manner, on the same terms. This debt, to the amount of three to five millions, has never been paid. As a means of securing re-payment to some extent, and at the same time of strengthening the slave interest, which had been very much weakened by the large export of slaves, the party in favour of the perpetuation of slavery proposed to repeal the law which prohibits the further introduction of slaves into the state, so as to get back the slaves sold, and many more, in payment of their southern debts, and so increase the number of slaves, and the waning influence of the slave interest.

At the last state election the question was, to a considerable extent, made a test at the polls, in the election of members of the state legislature.

In one of the representative districts, Mr. Cassius M. Clay, a cousin of Hon. Henry Clay, and Mr. Robert Wickliffe, jun., were the opposing candidates. Wickliffe, a virulent slaveite, in a stump speech, of which a sketch was afterwards published, violently assailed Clay as an opposer of slavery, and of the repeal of the law so obnoxious to the slavery party. Mr. Clay published an able reply. The subject has been freely discussed in the papers, and subsequently in the legislature. The merits of the whole system of slavery were examined by some speakers on both sides. Nor has the discussion ceased since the rejection of the repealing law by a decisive majority. Slavery in Kentucky has not long to live.

#### POLITICAL ACTION: THE CENSUS. [From a private Letter.]

"New York, February 27, 1841.

"I am satisfied that what the abolitionists have been doing has not been in vain. The popular mind is deeply imbued with our principles. The legislature is now in session. The nine months' slave-law of this state will I think be repealed; and I would not be greatly surprised if the proposition to extend the elective franchise to the coloured people should also succeed. There are now the only remaining vestiges of slavery in this state. The 7000 who adhered to their principles at the election of president and vice-president have done wonders for the cause. In the free states, abolitionists, and their principles and objects, are treated with more respect than at any time heretofore. I feel well convinced, if we had cast 50,000 votes—aye, or even 20,000, it would have been looked on as speedily sealing the fate of slavery. As it is we have no cause to be discouraged.

"There have been very interesting discussions on the slavery subject in the legislature of Kentucky this winter: so there has been in the legislature of this state, arising out of a demand made by the governor of Virginia on our government, for the delivery to the former of three men, charged in Virginia with having stolen a slave. Our governor has taken high ground, and will maintain it, and the people will sustain him in it. I am inclined to believe that the 7000 will remain firm, and that they will have large accessions to their ranks. You may have noticed in the *Emancipator*, that there is to be a national convention in this city in May, in reference to the next presidential election (1844). I think it will be well attended, unless the present hard times, so far as money matters are concerned, should continue, and that it will command great respect from the political parties. The census of last year shows the south to be in a state of almost going to pieces. Their white population has increased but little comparatively; even their slaves have fallen from 150,000 to 250,000 below what their number was expected to be. I can account for it satisfactorily in no other way than that which is most injurious to the humanity of the slave-holders. Texas I do not suppose has received a greater number of slaves from the United States, than have been illicitly introduced into the latter from Africa and the West Indies. The fugitives to Canada and the free states will affect the result but little. Our planters, I fear, have added another dreadful item to their bloody list. The Georgians have had a controversy with Maine for the last three years, growing out of the escape of a slave from the former, in a vessel belonging to Maine. The captain and mate of the vessel were indicted, but the governors of Maine (two, one of each party) refused to give them up on the demand of the Georgians. The Georgians, of course, threatened heavy vengeance. A year ago the house of representatives passed a bill, imposing a quarantine of 100 days on all vessels from Maine, (a thing they had no constitutional

right to do) and inflicting severe penalties for violating it; but the senate rejected it. This winter both houses passed the bill, but the governor has failed to ratify it: so it is no law. The south is, in my opinion, from this time, rapidly to lose its influence in the political affairs of the country. The free states, looking at their increase in population—their growth in improvement, and in everything that constitutes the power of states, are evidently beginning to pluck up courage, and rather to look down with contempt on the comparative insignificance of the south. The low price of cotton, and the low price of slaves, has a powerful effect against the south. How I do wish you could just now give a finishing blow to our slavery, by a two years' supply of cotton from India! I really think it would be the means of suddenly dissolving the slave-system here. If slaves should become unprofitable, and be considered an encumbrance, the slave-holders would soon be regarded as the most hateful beings on earth."

**CHANGE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.**—Among the numerous proofs of a remarkable change of public sentiment in favour of Anti-slavery discussion, we are highly gratified in perceiving that Cincinnati, Ohio, heretofore a stronghold of pro-slavery sentiment, has "now fairly redeemed herself," as the *Philanthropist* expresses it, "from the disgrace inflicted on her by the mob-meeting of 1836, and the abhorrence meeting of 1839." On the 5th of January a public meeting was held at the court-house, to consider the subject of slavery and the slave-trade in the district of Columbia, and the gag-resolves of Congress. Some highly respectable citizens, not heretofore connected with anti-slavery associations, attended the meeting, and took an active part in its proceedings.—*American and Foreign Anti-slavery Reporter*.

**THE SCHOONER CATHARINE** has been condemned by Judge Thompson. The vessel was built for the slave-trade in Baltimore, and owned by R. P. Allen and John Henderson, of that city. It was sold by their agent in Havana to the well known slave-trading firm of Pedro Martinez and Co. Some difficulty, however, occurred, and the bargain fell through. The vessel was then sold to Don Tiran, another slave-merchant, the money payable when the vessel was delivered at Bona, on the African coast. She sailed under a charter to one Thrasher, with an American captain and crew, sufficient to navigate her as a trader, but not as a slaver. A large Spanish and Portuguese crew was on board as passengers! A slave-deck ready to put up, and all the conveniences for a cargo of slaves, were stowed in the hold. The vessel was consigned to J. Peviera, a merchant and slave-trader on the coast. She was captured by a British vessel before reaching the coast, and sent to the United States for trial. An unsigned paper was found on the person of the captain, directing him, in case a man-of-war boarded him, to take command with the American crew, "all the others to be passengers." From a reference to the instructions, it would seem that Thomas Wilson and Co., of Baltimore, were interested in the results of the voyage. The decision of the judge embraces these points. The Act of congress forbids the employment of American vessels in the slave-trade.—*Ibid*.

**THE late proceedings of the British government on the subject of slavery, are thus sorely noticed in the late warlike report presented to the senate of the United States.**

"We have other points of difference with Great Britain, which add interest to every question that arises between us at present. She has recently seized our vessels, and exercised a power involving the right of search, under the pretext of suppressing the foreign slave-trade, which, if persevered in, will sweep our commerce from the coast of Africa, and which is incompatible with our rights as a maritime power. She has recently, in her intercourse with us, refused indemnity and denied our rights to property, on a subject-matter vital to near one-half the states of this confederacy, and which, considering her military position at Bermuda, and her growing power in the West Indies, is of the last importance to our national independence."

#### BRAZIL.

**THE following extract of a circular from the minister of foreign affairs to the ambassadors and consuls in Europe, published in the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 7th of January last, shows that the government are taking measures for the abolition of slavery in that empire.**

"Whereas the imperial government should employ all means within its reach to promote within this empire the moral and material improvements of which a new, vast, and rich country is susceptible, and where every thing that can contribute to its prosperity and future grandeur is but in its beginning, or has still to be created, it is my duty to recommend to your zeal various objects, making at the same time some observations which may guide you to contribute on your part, in that quarter of the world where you reside, towards the purposes which this government has proposed to itself. You, as well as any reflecting politician, in looking attentively and with earnestness to the futurity of our country, cannot but acknowledge that its progress must be languid, and that this empire cannot reach the power and greatness for which it appears to be destined, if we do not earnestly think on, and make every possible effort for, calling to us the greatest possible number of free and industrious settlers.

"Our immense forests and extensive navigable rivers, our varied natural products, are so many, which, if turned to account by the rapid increase of a free and industrious population, will give us rank and respect amongst other nations, while with slave labour (the further importation of which is even henceforth impeded by solemn treaties which government, from duty and from principle, must maintain), this country will never be able to near such nations in industry and civilization; nor is it necessary to ponder on the perils which the empire would run for the future, exposed then to become a prey to some powerful nation having a redundant population, if perchance, as is no more possible, the introduction of Africans, licitly or illicitly, were to continue, in a century in which all civilised nations have given themselves the hand to put down the slave-trade, and to establish daily more vigorous measures to attain this end.

"Seeing these truths, a committee of the house of deputies presented last session a project of law, which, as yet, could not pass for want of time, but which, no doubt, will be adopted in 1841, providing means for promoting a free emigration to this country, and which in its preamble makes reflections tending to destroy the prejudices of most of our planters. This project and the said reflections I remit to you, that you may order them to be published in the journals of the country where you reside, because they are also calculated to meet those prejudices which reign in Europe against Brazil, and to invite a spontaneous emigration."



"When we make a comparison between the numbers annually emigrating from Europe to the United States, and the few coming to this country, we cannot but think that this great difference is owing to such prejudices.

"A most fertile soil, a pleasant and healthy climate, and infinite natural productions, would, no doubt, invite emigration, if such erroneous impressions were removed; the more so, as it is certain that no industrious and quiet foreigner has ever sought means of subsistence in Brazil without finding it, and almost generally abundance and riches even, and protection from government, and friendship from the people, who cannot be said to be otherwise than hospitable.

"It being decidedly anomalous that a free government, trying to attract free labourers to the country, should employ in its arsenals, workshops, or many of its public works, any workmen that are slaves; government has already prohibited and stopped the employment of such bondsmen in most of the public establishments; but since we suffer a very great want of handicraftsmen, and particularly of carpenters, masons, ship-carpenters, smiths, paviours, and locksmiths; it becomes highly necessary that you should employ every means for disposing these kind of people to come and settle in Brazil."

To this we are enabled to add, that, in January last, above 500 hired slaves of various trades were discharged from the navy yard at Rio; and that circulars were issued by the ministers of war and marine, directing the same to be done at the arsenals of Bahia and Pernambuco.

#### MAURITIUS.

From our file of the *Cerneen* we learn that Sir Lionel Smith is far from finding his government a bed of roses. Some planters of the districts of Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart having addressed a letter to him, alleging that they were "reduced to a deplorable condition in consequence of the insubordination of the Indians," his Excellency directed the following reply:—

"Colonial Secretary's Office, 23rd November, 1840.

"GENTLEMEN—His Excellency, the Governor, has received your memorial under date the 15th instant, setting forth the relaxed state of discipline and disorder which prevails among the Indian labourers in this island, and praying that prompt means of repression may be adopted.

"His Excellency has directed me to express to you his extreme regret at the evils therein complained of, and to offer to you the assurance of his willingness to do every thing in his power to check and control, so far as the law will admit, any spirit of disorder which may unhappily exist amongst the labouring population.

"With this view his Excellency has directed the stipendiary magistrates to proceed to the estates of the several gentlemen who have signed the memorial, there to warn the labourers of the obligations under which they are bound to their employers, and of the danger they incur by any breach of their engagements.

"His Excellency has directed me to add, that, as soon as he shall have returned from Mahébourg, he will attend at the Powder Mills, on a day of which due notice will be given to you, to speak to such of your labourers as you may send there, and, with the magistrates, endeavour to induce them to pursue a better course of conduct.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

"G. F. DICK, Colonial Secretary."

Disorders having broken out on Mr. Cordouan's estate, in the district of Plaines Wilhelms, the governor proceeded thither to make investigation. "Arrived upon the spot, his Excellency summoned to his presence every Indian on the establishment, and, aided by an interpreter, severally interrogated them. Some of them having complained that the quantity of salt fish meted out to them was short of the weight specified in their engagements, Sir Lionel Smith, at the solicitation of Mr. Cordouan himself, caused several bundles, selected at hazard out of the store in which the provisions of the labourers are kept, to be weighed before him; and the result was, that they not only proved to weigh more than was asserted by the Indians, but that they even exceeded the weight prescribed by the agreement passed between them and their employer."

So says the *Cerneen*; but it says nothing of those other complaints which, doubtless, must have been forthcoming on so serious an occasion, and of those rebukes which his Excellency may have found it necessary, for aught that appears, to administer to Mr. Cordouan. The *Cerneen* makes it matter of complaint that Sir Lionel has issued a circular, directing the stipendiary magistrates to make "periodical visits to the different estates in their jurisdiction to receive the complaints of the servants against their masters;" a measure evidently adopted because the masters made such a clamour when their servants carried their complaints to the magistrates. The spirit of the *Cerneen* may be judged of by the following sentence:—"Will Sir Lionel Smith persist in his illusion, and refuse to convince himself by the evidence of his own senses, that the class which, on his arrival at Mauritius, he supposed to constitute a population of saints and martyrs, is for the most part composed of the very dregs of the principal towns of India, whom the state of helplessness to which we were reduced, and that alone, induced us to accept as a boon?"

#### FRANCE.

On Saturday last M. Lacrosse put some questions to the ministers, respecting a particular occurrence which involves the whole question of slavery. It related to a colonist, who, after having confined a negress in a private dungeon for twenty-two months, without either air or light, was not only acquitted on his trial, but was carried in triumph by the free population of the colony!

The debate which arose on this subject proves that the question of the abolition of slavery is already decided in the public mind. Nothing remains but to determine the manner in which it shall be accomplished; and, if anything is astonishing, it is that it should still exist. There are enormities which cease to excite attention, because they are so common: war and slavery are of this class. The former is justified, even when it is aggressive and unjust, by a pretext drawn from the necessity of self-defence: but slavery! slavery! what sophism can justify this? We give a calm and simple view of the subject.

Some men who declare that they have no greater blessing than liberty, obtain other men to make slaves of them; men whose whole laws rest on the principle that duties and privileges all emanate from justice, act on this principle, we have no law but force! Their whole life is spent in defending their own liberty and rights, and in violating the liberty and rights of others; and this deliberately, without remorse, in the name of justice, and invoking humanity! They assert that the negroes are much

more happy in being their slaves, and in being certainly provided for, than in being free, and having to get their living; that, if they were not slaves to them, they would be so to some one else.—We are indignant at such language. We feel that such men cannot be reasoned with; unless it be by applying to themselves the whip which they inflict on their human beasts of burden, or by subjecting these gentle colonists, and their philanthropic delegates, for one year, to the toil and torture they impose on their proteges.

You give me favours? may the slave say to them; but, for my part, I want none of your favours, I want my liberty. You understand my interest better than myself? Perhaps so; but let me manage my own affairs. Keep your favours to yourselves; and, as I want nothing from you, do you take nothing from me. I want to be unhappy, wretched, miserable, if I please; this is no concern of yours. I want what is my own; my limbs, my time, my life, my liberty!

Slavery is a crime; nothing less. The divine law punished the man-stealer with death; and if the colonist has not gone to the coast of Africa to commit the robbery, he is at least the receiver of stolen goods. Now our laws punish the latter crime equally with the former. What can the inhabitants of the old world do, then, against the new, chargeable with depriving of their liberty millions of their fellow-creatures? Renounce and terminate our relations with them, just as we should act towards thieves and receivers. France, certainly, will not be slow to abolish slavery in her colonies. A commission is charged with this question. But will not other nations continue after her implicated in this crime; and the greatest among them, one which, on so many accounts possesses our sympathies, will not she continue to consume millions of lives in slavery? Why should not the European powers take up the cause of humanity, and place the culpable ones without the pale of nations? When the rights of humanity are so manifestly and so flagrantly violated, does not our simple character as men entitle us to interpose on behalf of the oppressed? I think it does. I should like, then, that by persuasion, if possible, or, if necessary, by suspended relations, Europe should conduct the entire continent of America to the abolition of slavery. It might not require more than the privation of one of our products to constrain her to it.

It is not only nations, however, but individuals who can advance this cause. The proof of this is before our eyes. It need not be disguised, that the motive which has induced France to take up this question is the example of England, and the emancipation of the English slaves originated in the persevering efforts of one man, the illustrious Wilberforce. Christian societies, without doubt, came to his aid; but what are societies but individuals united as each of us may be united with his neighbour, to promote in his little sphere the advancement of the greatest questions? Every one has some portion of money, of talent, of time, of influence; let each bring his offering, and emancipation will follow. You can write; you, petition; you, require from your representative a motion or a vote; you, circulate what is already written; you, by conversation in your circle, elicit public opinion; all, subscribe to works which relate to the subject. This article has less for its end to act on the European powers, who will never read it, than on the individual persons who may find it in their hands.—*L'Esperance*.

THE feeling of the chamber on the slavery question may clearly be traced, in its refusal to allow £200 for the mission to the West Indies of M. M. de Feuillide and de Cassaignac. The former had gone to inquire into the slave-question, and had conducted himself most shamefully; the latter had gone for the purpose of getting himself named delegate of Guadeloupe at Paris. Both had claimed to represent the ideas of the French (Thiers) ministry; both declared themselves in favour of the continuance of slavery: both were introduced into the colonial council, one recommending the other as delegate, and as representing the opinions of the French ministry. M. de Cassaignac was chosen delegate; and all this while a commission for the abolition of slavery was sitting in Paris, and flattering itself that its views would be furthered by the cabinet. M. Thiers defended himself by saying, that he had merely given one of these gentlemen a letter, and the other a mission, without much inquiry into the opinions or character of either.

#### IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN MINING ASSOCIATION.

[From the *Mining Journal*.]

THE movement lately made by some shareholders in the Imperial Brazilian Mining Company, whose philanthropy and proper feeling on this question is so praiseworthy, causes us to take up the subject, as one which is highly deserving the attention of all who may be embarked in foreign mines where slave labour exists. We find in the reports of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Company, that, in taking stock, the value is set upon the slaves in the same manner as produce, stores, or materials; and, in case of the suspension of operations at Gongo Soco, the consequence would be, that the slaves, who have by their labour yielded the returns from which the shareholders have obtained their dividends, would be sold, and turned over to some other party, being put up to obtain the highest price. When we reflect that £20,000,000 was granted for the abolition of slavery—when the general hatred and detestation which Englishmen entertain to slave traffic is considered—we can hardly believe, that any one who professes the feelings or principles which should influence every Christian, should subscribe to a Company, or allow the funds placed at their disposal to be applied to the purchase of human flesh. We trust that the gentlemen who have taken up the subject will follow it out—success must attend their exertions, and the good wishes of all, with the prayers of the enslaved, will accompany and prosper the cause they advocate, supported as it is by all those kindly feelings which christianity inculcates.

Another slave-schooner, with 290 souls, prize to the *Cleopatra*, had arrived at Havana. These were to be taken to Nassau by the brig *Meg Lee*, of Sunderland; and she was to be conveyed by a Mexican man-of-war schooner which the British consul had asked for, there being no English man-of-war at Havana. The *Meg Lee* had just returned from Nassau, whither she had carried the *Cleopatra's* previous capture.—*Morning Chronicle*.

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